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RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
First regular session of 1991
Item 8 of the provisional agenda**
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Note verbale dated 6 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the resolution, dated 30 April 1991, of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Albania on the problem of Kosova (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 93, 94 and 99 of the preliminary list, and of the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council.

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* A/46/50.

** E/1991/30.

ANNEX

Resolution dated 30 April 1991 of the People's Assembly of Albania on the question of Kosova

The Albanian autochthonous people living in their own territories, but incorporated within the Yugoslav Federal State, wherein they come third in population number, are confronted with a new threat of unpredictable consequences.

The big Serb chauvinism is not confined only to serious and systematic violation of the fundamental rights of Albanians, to their imprisonment, deportation and murder, but it is also in a hurry to eliminate their autonomy. In recent days, this chauvinism resolved to go even further: it decided to divide Kosova into regions, so that its medieval myth could finally come true, thus pushing to the extreme the ugliest crime against mankind, that of genocide against about three million Albanians in their ancestral territories.

Through this artifice and the ways and means the Serb leaders use, they are trying to legitimate the invasion of Kosova, thus posing a threat to peace and stability not only in Yugoslavia, but also in the Balkans and Europe.

It is common knowledge, however, that the Albanian people of Kosova have clearly expressed their sovereign will through the decision of the Assembly of Kosova on 2 July 1990. Through this act they demand no more than the other Slav peoples in Yugoslavia. Therefore, the claim that allegedly the Albanians, by being recognized as a people, want to accomplish their immediate secession, is a pretext to nip in the bud every constructive initiative that could be eventually launched from the other Yugoslav republics, to paralyse the other Slav peoples, by nourishing in them the malignant pan-Slavic idea of disbelief toward the non-Slav peoples.

The Albanian people are being excluded from the talks on the Yugoslav crisis. This consitutes a violation of the universal principle of self-determination, which is sanctioned by the Federal Constitution itself. But it is not the fault of this people if they were divided in half through the dictate of the old diplomacy.

Therefore we demand that:

1. An end be put to the invasion and to the systematic violence exercised by the Serb State against the Albanian martyr people.

2. The Albanians living in their own territories within the Yugoslav Federal State be recognized as a people and nation and be ensured their participation in the talks on the new agreement on the basis of equality with the other peoples in Yugoslavia.

3. The regionalization of Kosova not be allowed.

4. All the rights of our Albanian brothers residing in their own territories in Yugoslavia, which are recognized by the Yugoslav Constitution and the Helsinki acts, including that of self-determination, be recognized and fully observed.

5. The Albanian Government be authorized to take the necessary action near the States and international organizations to guarantee these rights.

These questions being of great concern, we deem it necessary to forward an appeal to the European and world opinion for greater understanding, fuller and more concrete commitment, so that the fire the big Serb chauvinists want to make is prevented, for such a conflagration could have unpredictable proportions. This is not only a message to our brothers, but also a fundamental obligation of half of our nation towards its other half.